United Nations A/63/452

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 November 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 150

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Marko **Rakovec** (Slovenia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 62/72 of 6 December 2007.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 26th meeting, on 14 November 2008. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.6/63/SR.26).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.[1]

5. At the 26th meeting, on 14 November, the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country introduced the report of that Committee (see A/C.6/63/SR.26).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/63/L.18

6. At the 26th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Cyprus, on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire and Cyprus, introduced a draft

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/63/26).

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resolution entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country" (A/C.6/63/L.18).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/63/L.18 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

8. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country,[1]

Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[2] the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations[3] and the responsibilities of the host country,

Recalling also that, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, the Committee should consider, and advise the host country on, issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations,

Recognizing that effective measures should continue to be taken by the competent authorities of the host country, in particular to prevent any acts violating the security of missions and the safety of their personnel,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations and conclusions of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country contained in paragraph 51 of its report;[1]

2. *Considers* that the maintenance of appropriate conditions for the normal work of the delegations and the missions accredited to the United Nations and the observance of their privileges and immunities, which is an issue of great importance, are in the interest of the United Nations and all Member States, and requests the host country to continue to solve, through negotiations, problems that might arise and to take all measures necessary to prevent any interference with the functioning of missions; and urges the host country to continue to take appropriate action, such as training of police, security, customs and border control officers, with a view to maintaining respect for diplomatic privileges and immunities and if violations occur to ensure that such cases are properly investigated and remedied, in accordance with applicable law;

3. *Notes* the problems experienced by some permanent missions in connection with the implementation of the Parking Programme for Diplomatic Vehicles[4] and shall remain seized of the matter, with a view to continuing to maintain the proper implementation of the Parking Programme in a manner that is fair, non-discriminatory, effective and therefore consistent with international law;

4. *Requests* the host country to consider removing the remaining travel restrictions imposed by it on staff of certain missions and staff members of the

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/63/26).

[2] Resolution 22 A (I).

[3] See resolution 169 (II).

[4] A/AC.154/355, annex.

Secretariat of certain nationalities, and, in this regard, notes the positions of affected States as reflected in the report of the Committee, of the Secretary-General and of the host country;

5. *Notes* that the Committee anticipates that the host country will enhance its efforts to ensure the issuance, in a timely manner, of entry visas to representatives of Member States, pursuant to article IV, section 11, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations[3] to travel to New York on United Nations business; and notes that the Committee anticipates that the host country will enhance efforts to facilitate participation, including visa issuance, of representatives of Member States in other United Nations meetings as appropriate;

6. *Notes also* that a number of delegations have requested shortening the time frame applied by the host country for issuance of entry visas to representatives of Member States, since this time frame poses difficulties for the full-fledged participation of Member States in United Nations meetings;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the host country, and hopes that the issues raised at the meetings of the Committee will continue to be resolved in a spirit of cooperation and in accordance with international law;

8. *Affirms* the importance of the Committee being in a position to fulfil its mandate and meet on short notice to deal with urgent and important matters concerning the relations between the United Nations and the host country, and in that connection requests the Secretariat and the Committee on Conferences to accord priority to requests from the Committee on Relations with the Host Country for conference-servicing facilities for meetings of that Committee that must be held while the General Assembly and its Main Committees are meeting, without prejudice to the requirements of those bodies and on an "as available" basis;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain actively engaged in all aspects of the relations of the United Nations with the host country;

10. *Requests* the Committee to continue its work in conformity with General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI);

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country".